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VIRGINIA LAW REGISTER.

EDITED BY GEORGE BRYAN.

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George Keith Taylor, for more than a quarter of a century Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, died in Richmond on August 22, 1903, in the seventy-third year of his age. One of a family of court clerks, his long and satisfactory service attested his fitness for the responsible duties of George Keith Taylor. his office. Even when, by the throes of political upheaval a score of years ago, the personnel of the court was changed, its members wisely retained "the hand of the court," the clerk.

Mr. Taylor has been pronounced to have been in many respects the type of the old-school clerk, accurate, attentive, patient and obliging. We, however, take the distinction to be at least suggestive of a discrimination against the clerks of to-day, who, so far as our acquaintance goes, are as fully equipped with these qualities as their predecessors. We, therefore, prefer to remember Mr. Taylor as the dean of the corps, honored alike by his court and its bar, respected by his acquaintances, beloved by his family and now called to a well-earned rest.

With this number, we send out a supplement in the shape of an index by Mr. Howell C. Featherston, of Lynchburg, to the Corporations Act of May 21, 1903—Acts Extra Session, 1902-3, pages 437-484. The only suggestion in the "index" to this volume of the presence of this most important statute is the title "Corporations—Act concerning Index to Corporations Act. —437-484." This is a labor-saving age, and this terse statement of the contents of the act must be pronounced to be unsurpassed in legal bibliography—so far as the compiler is concerned. As respects the people, who are charged with actual knowledge of the law, it must with equal confidence be declared a labor magnifier and multiplier. The REGISTER, therefore, renders its subscribers the

practical service of a detached index to the act which they can insert in the proper volume. Members of the bar who borrow the REGISTER from their subscribing brethren may obtain the index from the publishers for fifteen cents. A year's subscription to the REGISTER is only five dollars—a fee in a magistrate's court in a petty case—for which the consideration this year will be a volume of between ten and twelve hundred pages, containing in addition to other matter, all the decisions of the Court of Appeals. Why should not these advantages commend themselves to every member of the Virginia bar and lead to their enrollment among our constituents?

The American Bar Association convened in its twenty-fifth annual session at the Hot Springs of Virginia, Wednesday, August 26, 1903. It was formally welcomed to Virginia by the Virginia State Bar Association in a happy address made on its behalf by Mr. A. C. Braxton, of Staunton. On Thursday evening a reception was tendered by the Virginia lawyers to their visiting brethren, which seemed to remove any doubts of their welcome which might have remained. The papers read by President Francis Rawle, of Philadelphia; Sir Frederick Pollock, of England; and Judge Le Baron B. Colt, of Rhode Island, evidenced careful preparation. That of Mr. William A. Glasgow, of Roanoke, Virginia, upon "Certain Dangerous Tendencies of Legislation" evoked universal commendation, both for its substance and style. The state bar has every reason to be satisfied with its representatives on this notable occasion.

Into the business sessions of the Association was unexpectedly injected a discussion of the trust question. It was strenuously objected that such a question was outside the functions of the Association, while those advocating the adoption of the report of the committee on commercial law, which seemed to us interesting in its recitals but lame in its conclusions, as strenuously contended in substance that the Association was composed of American citizens who should deem nothing human foreign to its purpose and jurisdiction. The debate was characterized by a degree of confusion and disorder which were suggestive of scenes just before the last ballot in a county nominating convention. Order was restored after the adoption of a motion to recommit the subject to the committee, with instructions to report to the next annual meeting its conclusions

upon trusts of labor as well as capital, with drafts of forms of legislation designed to remedy the evils complained of. In this we thought we heard the neigh of the horse of Troy. We look forward with a degree of impatience to the twelve months which separate us from the next meeting of the association, for we are convinced that when that report comes in and the subject is thrown open for discussion, the scenes of the Hot Springs session will be pronounced tame in comparison. It will be our endeavor to be present—merely, of course, as a bystander, desirous of witnessing the evolution of the subject, but somewhat doubtful of the making of any practical progress towards its settlement in a three days' session of an association designed for the consideration of other and non-economic questions.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Bar Association was held at the Hot Springs of Virginia, August 21-24. While the attendance from the cities was not as large as usual, that from the other circuits, particularly Southwest Virginia, showed a material increase over preceding years. The features of the occasion were the annual address of the President, Hon. S. C. Graham, of Tazewell County, upon "Some Philosophy of the Law and Lawyers;" that of Mr. A. C. Braxton, of Staunton, upon "The History of the Enactment of the Fifteenth Amendment;" that of Hon. John Goode, upon "The Electoral Commission"; the address of Chief Justice Clark of North Carolina, upon "Old Foes with New Faces," and that of Mr. J. F. Bullitt, of Big Stone Gap, upon "Trusts and Labor Unions." Of these papers it is enough to say that to the thoughtful listener, they of themselves repaid the effort incident to attendance upon the meeting. It is one thing to have information upon important topics within reach and quite another thing to reach out for it. The busy lawyer, absorbed with questions of present importance, often promises himself to read up upon certain subjects of professional and historical interest, but time goes by and the present and future absorb the past, and he remembers his intentions only when the subjects are casually suggested to him. It is in this particular that the sessions of the Bar Association are valuable, as affording an attentive man an opportunity to acquaint himself with at least an outline of a subject which would otherwise remain uninhabited by him. Others do the labor of digesting formidable matter

into a syllabus for an hour's talk, and he goes away with the consciousness of the possession of more ideas at a less outlay than he could have obtained in any other manner. The demand that these addresses be popularized is in our judgment a mistaken one. They are not intended for the general public but for a trained body of specialists who seek and will appreciate instruction. To give them a permanent value, their structure must needs be more or less technical, but to this a good literary style can give the requisite temper.

The Association enters upon its Sixteenth year under auspicious conditions, pointing to its continued usefulness to the profession and the people of the state. Mr. Alexander Hamilton, of Petersburg, was elected President for the ensuing year.

Among the non-resident lawyers attending the meetings of the Association was Professor James H. Brewster, of the Law Department of the University of Michigan and one of the editors of the *Michigan Law Review*, whose agreeable personality was impressed upon all who met him. His law-school is a university in itself, having an enrolled student-list of more than eight hundred. His *Review* occupies a high place among the law magazines of the country. We can assure him of a ready welcome whenever he shall fulfil his promise to visit us again.